Waraenu Douji

~108 no Gou~

BY MANO MAKOTO

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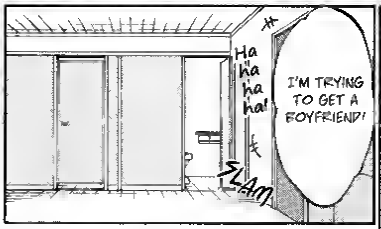
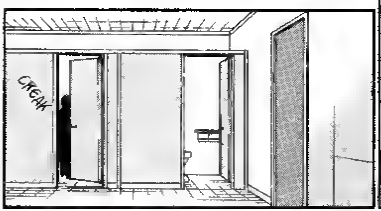
Desire for Beauty

第八話 美欲

"PEOPLE ONLY PERCIEVE 9%."
I READ THAT IN A BOOK SOME-WHERE...


Ha ha ha ha!
I'M TRYING TO GET A BOYFRIEND!
SLAM


CREAK

HEY,
YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR MAKEUP LATELY, ERIKO, HAVEN'T YOU?
OH, YOU COULD TELL?

SONODA MAI
(20)
SECOND YEAR
UNIVERSITY
STUDENT
SFX: FSSSHHH
CREAK
SFX: SLAM

MAI!
MORN-ING!
MORNING, MISATO
MISATO AND I ARE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS.
MISATO IS BRIGHT AND CHEERFUL, AND HAS MANY FRIENDS.
MISATO, GOOD MORN-ING!
MORNING!
MORNING, MAYU, AYA!
HUH? YOU DON'T SEEM VERY ENER-GETIC, MAI.
DID YOU EAT BREAK-FAST?
HA HA HA.
I'll eat it.

SHE'S THE TOTAL OPPOSITE ...
OF SHY AND PLAIN-LOOKING ME.
MISATO,
HERE'S THE SIGN-UP SHEET FOR OUR NEXT DRINKING PARTY
MAKE SURE YOU GET THE SAME NUMBER OF GIRLS
OKAY, THANKS,
ONO
Well, I'll LEAVE IT TO YOU
MORNING,
SONODA
BLUSH
AH
Y, YEAH!

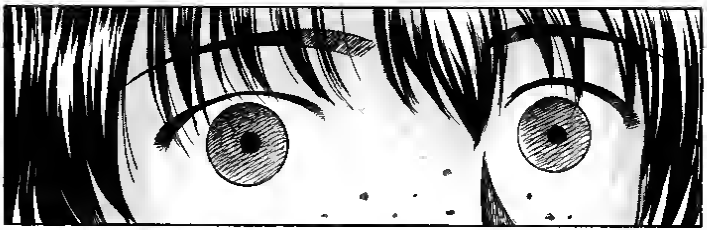
IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE...
M...
MISATO!
OOOOH I SEE!
OH? OHHH? MAI, COULD IT BE...
YOU COULD HAVE A GOOD CHANCE AT HIM
WELL, MAI, COME TO OUR DRINK-ING PARTY.
ONO AND I ARE THE ORGANIZ-ERS
MY EYES ARE SO SMALL, AND I HAVE FRECK-LES
AND I LOOK WEIRD IF I WEAR STYLISH CLOTHES
I CAN'T ACT ALL BRIGHT AND CHEERFUL LIKE YOU MISATO
IF I WENT TO A DRINK-ING PARTY, I'D JUST BE EMBAR-RASSED...
Mm...

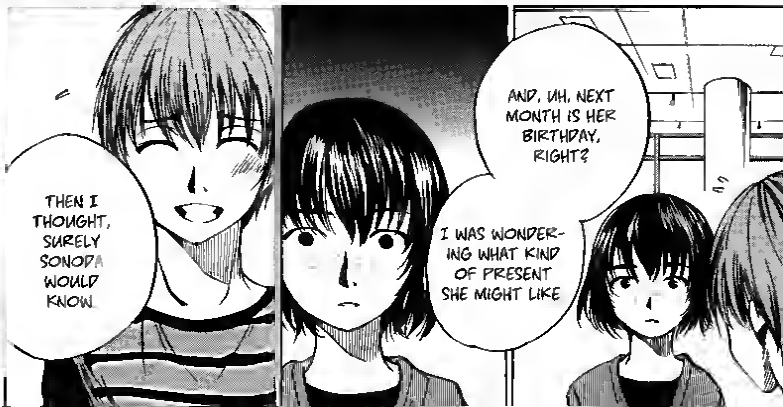
JEEZ YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THAT WAY...
YOU SHOULD HAVE MORE CONFI-DENCE IN YOUR-SELF...
COME SHOPPING WITH ME LATER!
WE'LL FIND SOMETHING CUTE FOR YOU IT'LL BE FUN!
WELL...
IF IT'S YOU, MISATO,
ANY CLOTHES WOULD LOOK GOOD, THOUGH...
M-MISATO...
LET'S NOT THIS REALLY DOESN'T SUIT ME
SFX FIDGET X2, CHATTER X2
YOU'LL BE FINE.
LOOK, THERE'S ONO!
GOOD MORNING, ONO!
MISA-TO!
SFX MISSING X2

WOW, YOU LOOK TOTALLY DIFFERENT, SONODA
Looks good!
Mai, don't stand with your legs so far apart!
YEAH
IT'S PRETTY CUTE.
THOSE WORDS...
WERE LIKE MAGIC.

I...
WAS ABLE TO TALK TO ONO QUITE A BIT.
FROM THEN, I STARTED TO ENTER MISATO'S WORLD, A LITTLE.
CHATTER
NO SMOKING
ARE YOU HERE ALONE TODAY, SONODA?
OH, THAT'S UNUSUAL
DINING HALL
CHATTER
CHATTER
I SEE
AH YEAH
MISATO HAS HER CLUB TODAY
I CAN'T SAY THIS WHILE MISATO IS AROUND
HUH?
THIS IS A LITTLE SUDDEN, BUT DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?
SONODA,
HE WANTS TO TALK JUST TO ME?!
UH SURE
IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO

I'VE GOT KIND OF A THING FOR MISATO.
THE... THE TRUTH IS...
SFX: CHATTER X2




THEN I THOUGHT, SURELY SONODA WOULD KNOW.
I WAS WONDERING WHAT KIND OF PRESENT SHE MIGHT LIKE
AND, UH, NEXT MONTH IS HER BIRTHDAY, RIGHT?

SHE CERTAINLY IS CUTE.
LIKE A LITTLE DOLL.
FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER,
MISATO YOU SURE ARE CUTE
WHY DON'T WE DRESS YOU IN WESTERN-STYLE CLOTHES?
MISATO WAS ALWAYS THE ONE WHO WAS LOVED
MISATO LIKES FROG-THEMED CHARACTER MERCHANDISE AND STUFF.
And...
OH UM...
SONODA?
I SHOULD HAVE...
KNOWN WHAT THAT MEANT BY NOW.
カーン
SFX: DING X3
WELL, LATER SONODA
THANKS SO MUCH FOR TODAY!

SFX: CHATTER X3
S-SORRY
AH! THAT HURT
YEAH
LATER!
SFX: WHAM
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOIN',
UGLY BITCH.
"YOU SHOULD HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF!"

"MAI!"
MISATO
WOMEN
"UGLY BITCH."
AND I'M SURE NO ONE!
I BET YOU'VE NEVER...
HAD A SINGLE HATEFUL THOUGHT WHILE LOOKING AT YOURSELF IN THE MIRROR.
HAS EVER THOUGHT THAT ABOUT YOU.

I DIDN'T LOOK LIKE THIS.
IT'S TOO MUCH.
IF ONLY...
WHY IS IT ALWAYS MISATO?
SFX RUSTLE

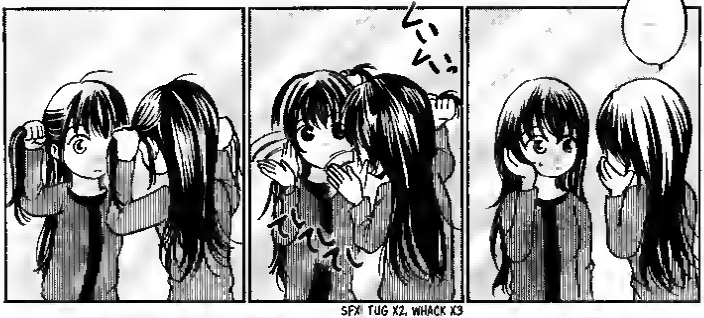
CHILD OF MAN.

HUH ?
ZAAA

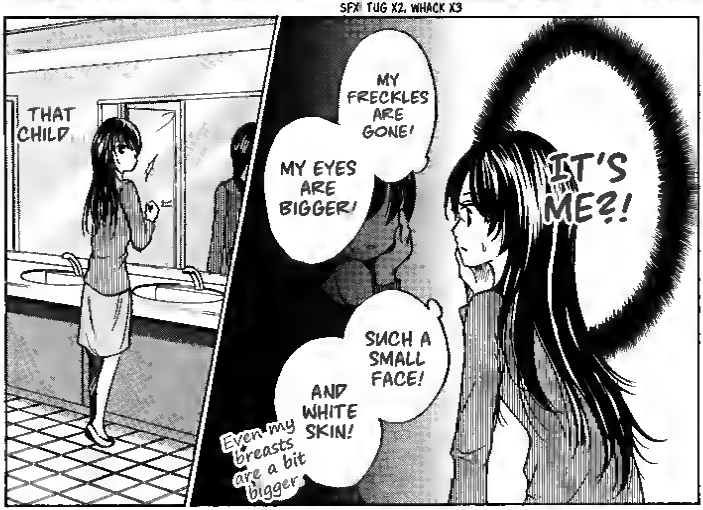
SFX RUSTLE

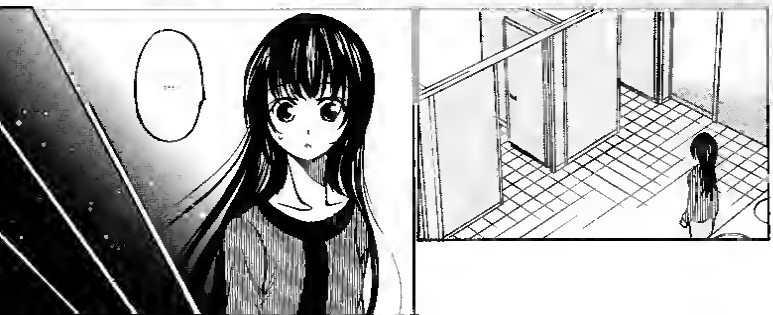
RUSTLE
DOST THOU LAMENT, CHILD OF MAN,
AT THE "FORM" THOU WAST BORN WITH?
THIS ONE IS A ZASHIKI WARASHI
THIS ONE CAN RELIEVE THY ANGUISH

IF THAT BE THY WISH, THERE IS A WAY...
THROUGH A SHIFT...
OF MIS-FORTUNE,
LOOM
DISCLOSE THY...
KARMA
HUH?



SFX: TUG X2, WHACK X3



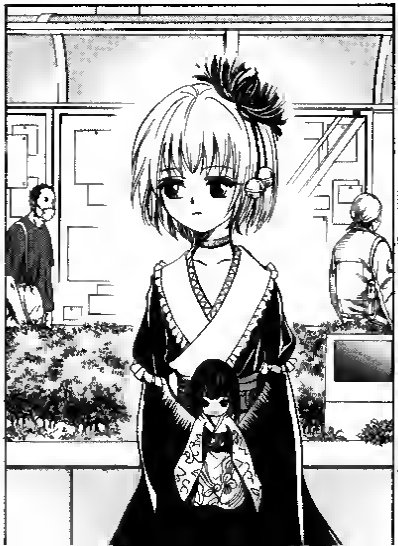


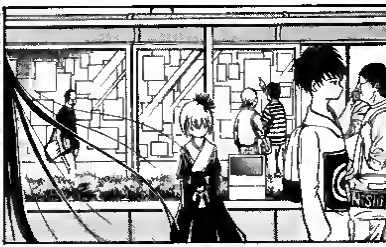
OH
UH SORRY ABOUT THAT
NO PROB-LEM

SFX: CHATTER X2

YEAH
YOU OUGHTA WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING

WHAM
HEY!
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING! YOU





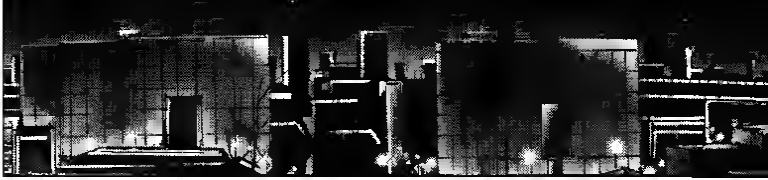
AND SO,
HEY, SONODA'S LOOKING CUTE!
HOW COME WE'VE NEVER NOTICED HER BEFORE?
SFX CHATTER X3
A DRINKING PARTY?
SOUNDS FUN
I'LL GO
WON'T YOU COME TOO, SONODA?
TH, THAT'S RIGHT.
WITH MY LOOKS CHANGED,
MY WHOLE WORLD CHANGED.

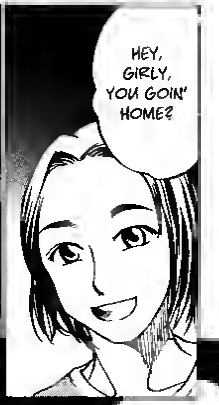
MAI!
MORNING!
AND THE ONE WHO WAS SUBSTITUTED FOR ME.
MISATO!
GOOD MORNING
OF MISFORTUNE...
THROUGH A SHIFT...
SHOULDN'T YOU WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF, MISATO?
Heh
?
I DON'T MIND IT'S ANNOYING, ANYWAY
YOU DIDN'T EVEN PUT ANY MAKE-UP ON. YOU LOOK REALLY PLAIN
REALLY?! THANKS SO MUCH, MISATO!
OH, GOOD MORNING, NON! HOW'S YOUR COLD?
I BROUGHT THE PRINTOUTS FOR THE DAYS YOU MISSED

LOOKS LIKE YOU AND ONO ARE GETTING ALONG PRETTY WELL, MAI
YOU THINK SO?
SONODA,
HERE'S THE SIGNUP FOR NEXT TIME'S DRINKING PARTY.
ONO!
WHY DON'T YOU COME TOO, MISATO? TO THE DRINKING PARTY.
AH I HAVE MY PART-TIME JOB THAT DAY.
Sorry!
Here
WELL, ANYWAY.
IF MISATO DID COME, SHE'D ONLY FEEL EMBARRASSED.
THAT'S HOW IT ALWAYS WAS FOR ME.
IT GOT PRETTY LATE, HUH?
YOU DRINK A LOT, ONO.
Are you okay?

I HAD SOMETHING I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT, SONODA
HUH?
SNATCH
AH!
RUSTLE
WHAT ABOUT YOU, SONODA?
I'M SURPRISED YOU HOLD YOUR LIQUOR SO WELL
THINK I'M GONNA CONFESS TO MISATO TOMORROW.
BU-BUMP
TO ME?
I

AND IT'S HER BIRTHDAY TOMORROW TOO, RIGHT?
YOU'RE PRETTY CLOSE WITH HER, RIGHT SONODA?
I WANTED TO SOUND OUT HOW SHE'D RESPOND
HUH?
WHY?
DOES HE STILL LIKE MISATO?
WHY...
I ALWAYS...





SFX: SIGH/ AZ

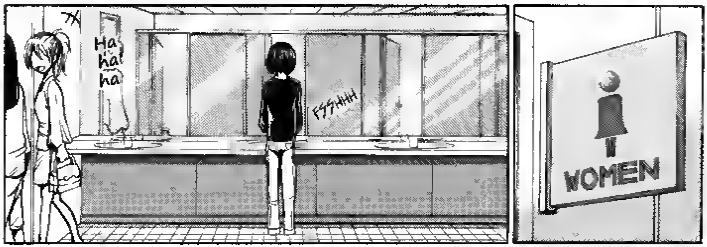
SFX: GRAB

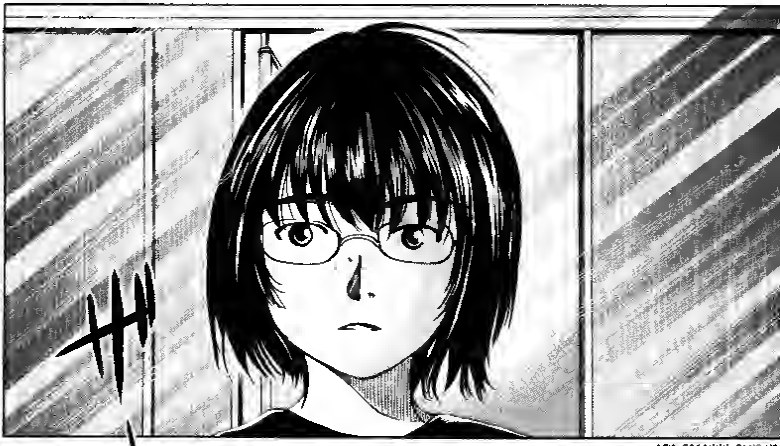
IF A GIRL LIKE YOU HANGS AROUND THIS LATE.
ALL SORTS OF STUFF'LL HAPPEN
Please be more careful
WHY DIDN'T I TURN OUT LIKE MISATO?
WHY?
WHY?
HE DIDN'T HAVE TO SAY THAT MUCH.
AH.
DASH

WHY ART THOU ANGRY?
SEEING SUCH A FORM MEET THINE EYES
THOU HAST THROWN OUT THY TRUE BODY,
AND TAKEN THY IDEAL FORM IN HAND.
WAST THAT NOT THINE EARNEST DESIRE?

BUT... IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE THIS WAY!
MY FRECKLES ARE GONE.
AND MY EYES ARE BIG, BUT...
EVEN THOUGH I'M ATTRACTIVE,
WHY AM I NOT POPULAR?
I DON'T GET IT.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW I CAN BE HAPPY!

THOU ART TIED TO THY BODY CHILD OF MAN
UNABLE TO SEE BEYOND THE CONTAINER TO THE PERSON WITHIN
MAI...
THIS COPY OF THY IDEAL BODY,
OR THY OWN, WHICH THOU HATE
CHOOSE WHICH CONTAINER THOU WOULDST HAVE
DISCLOSE THY...
KARMA.





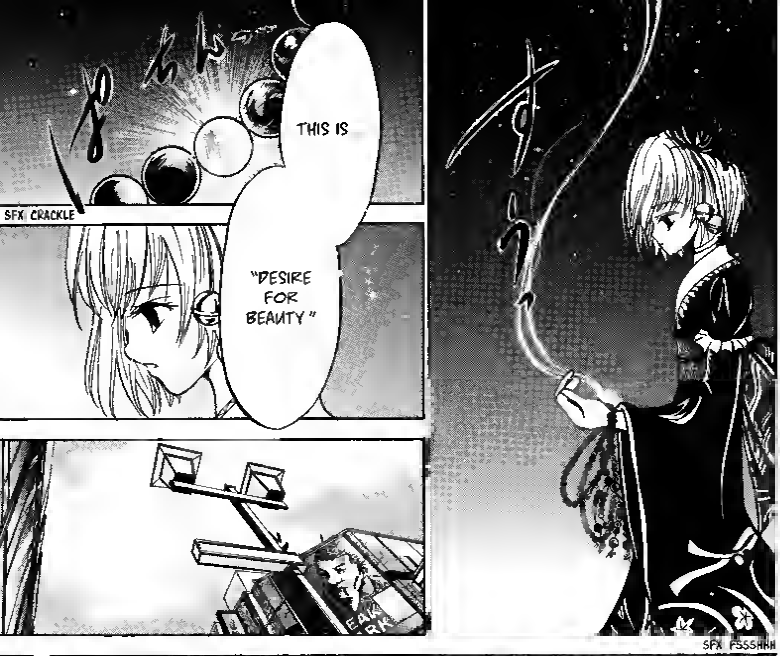
SFX: FSSSHHH, BLUB X2

WHAT'S UP, MISATO?
MAI!
YAYA MISSED A DAY LAST WEEK BECAUSE HER THROAT HURT.
MISATO! THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!
NO PROBLEM. BRING IT BACK WHEN YOU'RE DONE, OKAY?
SFX: CHATTER X3
THAT'S RIGHT.
HERE ARE THE PRINTOUTS FROM THE DAYS YOU MISSED.
NON, HOW'S YOUR COLD?
I gave her my notes to copy.
HOW'S YOUR COLD? I BROUGHT THIS FOR YOU.
IT'S PUDDING! THEY GAVE IT OUT AT LUNCH TODAY.
MAI...
I RE-MEMBER NOW..

GET BETTER SO YOU CAN COME BACK TO SCHOOL!
IT'S BORING WHEN YOU'RE NOT THERE.
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN ANYONE...
THE REASON MISATO'S ALWAYS LOVED.
SHE REALLY LIKES PEOPLE.
Hey!
MISATO...!
Morning!
SHE'S LOVED.
THAT'S WHY...

I JUST...
DON'T KNOW ABOUT THEM.
MISATO HAS HAD THINGS LIKE THAT HAPPEN TO HER, TOO.
I'M SURE...
IF I ASKED,
I WONDER IF SHE'D TELL ME?
UP UNTIL NOW...
I'VE NEVER SHOWN ANY INTEREST.
MAI,
WHAT'S UP?
DID SOMETHING GOOD HAPPEN?
I READ THAT IN A BOOK SOMEWHERE.
"PEOPLE ONLY PERCEIVE 9 PERCENT."

I'LL SMILE.
EVEN SO,
SFX: FWOOM
JEALOUSY AND LONGING AFTER OTHER PEOPLE'S BODIES
LOOKING ONLY AT THINE OWN WITH UNFORGIVING EYES...
SFX: FLASH


THIS IS
"DESIRE FOR BEAUTY"
SFX CRACKLE
SFX FSSSHHH

THAT, TOO
IS PART OF BEING A HUMAN BEING